

REMARKS

Claims 12, 14, 18 and 22 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 11, 13, 15-16 19-20 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-11, 13, 15-17, 19-22 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2 and 10-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over I'Anson et al. (I'Anson) and further in view of Shanklin et al. (Shanklin).

The rejection is respectfully traversed. With respect to claims 1 and 19-21, neither I'Anson nor Shanklin describes an "invalid state" or an "invalid transition" to such an invalid state, as recited in claims 1 and 19-21. Support As such, claims 1 and 19-21 are believed to be allowable.

Claim 2-11, 13 and 15-17 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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